

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Mary Stupin
Course Title & #:	MUS 140	Email:	Mary.stupin@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10730	Webpage (optional):	N/A
Classroom:	IVC Campus Room 313	Office #:	N/A
Class Dates:	8/11-12/5	Office Hours:	MW 11:30 am to 1 pm
Class Days:	Mondays and Wednesdays	Office Phone #:	TBD
Class Times:	1:00 pm to 2:20 pm	Emergency Contact:	Email only
Units:	3	Class Format:	In Person

Course Description

This course is an introduction to beginning keyboard skills, including notation. It includes basic technique, major and minor five finger patterns, major scales, sight reading and basic chord progressions, as they are encountered in beginning piano music. (CSU,UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None. No prior knowledge of Music or experience playing piano is needed for taking this course

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

- Perform beginning level – pieces with correct pitches, rhythms (notes values), fingerings, hand position, at a reasonable tempo, with expressions indications observed. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)
- Perform the five finger patterns for C major Scale separate hand with 2 Octaves (up and down)

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Play the five finger patterns and triads for 6 major keys with both hands.
- Play the basic chord progression in major keys with both hands
- Demonstrate a knowledge of the elements of music reading: pitch, duration (notes values), dynamics, tempo, and expression.
- Play the performing songs with several keys (choose with instructor)

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

- *Piano for Adults, Book 1, by Jane, Lisa and Lori Bastien*, Newest Edition. Kjos Music Press, ISBN:13:978-0711973008
- Musical Staff Paper for taking notes
- Pencil with eraser
- Project Spreadsheet that is provided in class by the instructor

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

This class is a face-to-face class, and piano lessons and practice are held every Monday and Wednesday in the piano lab. Students must attend class to learn how to read notes and attain the skills to perform simple pieces.

Attendance is mandatory because the student cannot perform the pieces outside of class. To be proficient at the piano, daily practice and study is necessary. Performing scale patterns and pieces from the text are mandatory in class activities.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Preparation for Class:

You must come to class twice a week with your piano textbook and the spreadsheet supplied by the instructor. It is necessary to practice your work and perform in class (individually) to the best of your ability. Practice at home or in the school practice rooms on a keyboard or piano is HIGHLY recommended, as music is an acquired skill that demands attention.

If the student does not participate in class and practice at least one hour per week outside class, he or she may not be able to pass the class.

Student work:

Students are required to perform individually the following:

- 12 songs from the textbook (Bastien Book One)
- Four major scales 2 hands one octave with corresponding triads
- One performance critique (500 word paper)

Additional assignments:

Students are required to critique a piano performance by one of the following composers:

- JS Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig Van Beethoven, Franz Schubert, Frederic Chopin, Clara Schumann, Claude Debussy or Camille Saint Saens
- Students are required to watch a performance on YouTube or a live performance and discuss the style of music and the way a contemporary performer employs techniques to create the performance.

Grading

To successfully complete the class, students are expected to complete the following:

- 12 projects from the Bastien Book One textbook (choices available on spreadsheet) worth 50 points each (600 points total)
- 4 major scales two hands one octave with triad sets worth 50 points each (200 points total)
- One written performance critique (100 points)
- Class Attendance (100 points)

Breakdown of class grading scale of 1000 points total:

- Projects 60% of grade
- Scales 20% of grade
- Performance Critique 10% of grade
- Class Attendance 10% of grade

Course Policies

Academic Integrity:

It is expected that a student's work be his or her own. Any student who engages in cheating, including copying another's work, be it a student or an author(plagiarism), will receive a failing grade on the assignment, and could be subject to further disciplinary action. Please note that the use of AI to complete performance critiques is considered plagiarism.

Cell Phone and Laptop Policy:

Cell phones must be turned on "Do not Disturb" mode during lectures and practice time and should be placed in a secure location away from desks and chairs. Students may use phones for research during discussions or breakout periods in class only. Laptops will not be generally needed in class, so discuss with the instructor to use as necessary.

Attendance Policy:

A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details

Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events are excused events

Other Course Information

Contacting the Instructor

The best way to reach me is through canvas messaging. I always go there first. You may also email me at the address listed on the syllabus, but it is not as reliable generally. I will return your emails in 24 to 48 hours. You may also set up an appointment with me to meet after class or through zoom or come by during office hours.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

8/11 Week One Syllabus Orientation and Keyboard Geography Chapter One Pages 1-9
8/18 President's Day Holiday Week Two Rhythm and Five Finger orientation to the piano Chapter One Pages 10-15
8/25 Week Three Music Theory Note Reading Treble and Bass Clef Chapter Two pages 16-24
9/1 Labor Day and Week Four Intervals, Phrasing and Dynamics Chapter Two pages 25-31
9/8 Week Five Introducing Harmony Chapter 3 pages 32-39
9/15 Week Six More Chords and the Flat Sign Chapter 3 pages 40-47
9/22 Week Seven Reading in Middle C/ Learning the Major Scale Chapter 4 pages 48-53
9/29 Week Eight Introducing Eighth Notes Chapter 4 pages 52-57

10/6 Week Nine Deciphering Articulation Chapter 4 pages 58-63
10/13 Week Ten New Five Finger Position Chapter 5 pages 64-71
10/20 Week Eleven D7 Chord and using F sharps Chapter 5 pages 72-75
10/27 Week Twelve C Chord and practice time Chapter 5 pages 76-79
11/3 Week Thirteen Practice time Chapter 5 pages 80-82
11/10 Veteran's Day and Week Fourteen Practice Time Chapter 5 pages 82-85
11/17 Week Fifteen Practice time: Performance numbers, scales and performance critiques
11/24 Thanksgiving Holiday
12/1 Final Wrap up: Performance numbers, scales and performance critiques